Construction of primary schools in Uttar Pradesh under operation black board

607. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUR CE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether approval has been granted for constructing buildings for schools in Uttar Pradesh during the next one year under the Operation Black Board; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) and (b) The Uttar Pradesh State Level Empowered Committee for Operation Blackboard approved the implementation of the scheme, including the construction of school buildings in 20 per cent blocks/municipal areas selected for coverage by that State Government in 1987-88 under first nhase of the scheme. The State Level Em oowered Committee has not met 'for 1988-89.

According to information aavilable, 2311 school buildings are required to be constructed in the first phase. Funds for construction are to be raised from NREP| RLEGP. VIIIth Finance Commission, State Education Sector Plan, etc.

Attracting Operations of Foreign Airlines Through Calcutta Airport

608. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN; Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any new steps for attracting more foreign airlines to fly through Calcutta Airport-

(b) what are the foreign Airlines which have of late, shown interest in the matter;

(c) what steps Government have taken to rejuvenate the engineering unit of Calcutta Airport; and

(d) whether Government are contemp lating to fix Calcutta as the base for any new variety of aircraft which are to be acquired by the Indian Airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIV RAI PATIL): (a) With a vi'ew to promoting Calcutta, the Government have been offering Cal- cutta as a point of call to all foreign airlines during air services talks. Foreign airlines willing to operate to Calcutta are offered preferential terms in commercial arrangements for unilateral operations.

(b) Aeroflot, Bangladesh Biman, Diuk Air of Bhutan. Jat-Yugoslav airlines,Royal Nepal airlines, Royal Jordanian airlines, Singapore airlines and Thai airways have been operating to|vl~ Calcutta. The airlines of Bulgaria and Poland have agreed in principle to operate to Calcutta.

(c) In addition to the facilities av-ilable for overhauling of fuel components, pneumatic components, high flow items and electrical components like CSD. Genera- tors, etc. of jet aircraft, overhauling of the Auxiliary Power Unit and overhaul of Ground Jet Starters, it has been decided to entrust Calcutta Base with the responsibility of carrying out full maintenance on some D-737 aircraft.

I'd) No. Sir.

Promotion of cultural tourism in Maharashtra

609. SHRT V7SHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of steps taken by Government to promote cultural tou- rism in Maharashtra; and

(b) what are the names of those tourist spots in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CI- VIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRT SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Recepit of proposals and sanction of Cen- tral Financial assistance to states for creation of tourism infrastructure is art ongoing process. Each year, the Ministry invites proposals from the State Govern-ments|Union Territories for inclusion in the Annual Plans of the Ministry. These

proposals are included in the Annual Plans subject to the framework and the guidelines laid down in the 7th 5 year Plan. For 1988-89, the Ministry has received proposals from the State Governments/ Union Territories and these relate to cen-iral financial assistance for infrastructure development at tourist centres, cultural tourism, beach tourism; wildlife tourism, yatri niwases; adventure and sports tourism, flood lighting of monuments, sound and jightshows etc. The Ministry does not allocate funds either State-wise or project-wise but scheme-wise. 'The Ministry provides financial assistance to States for creation of toarism infrastructure on the basis of specific proposals received from the State Governments. These proposals are taken up for financial assistance subject to the potential of the place, existing infrastruture existing and projected tourist traffic, overall merits of the proposal, viability of the project, avil-ability of the project, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Education

610. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOUR CE DEVELOPMENT be please'd to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education was held in the 'second week of September. 1988; and

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held and conclusions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The main recommendations of the meeting of the Central Advisory Board of education are given in the attached state ment. *[See* Appendix CXLVTU Annexure No. 30].

Shortage of maritime officers

611. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANS PORT be pleased to state:

(a) whetheT shipping industry in the country is facing shortage of maritime officers, especially nevigating and engineer. ing officers; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to overcome this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANS* PORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Some of the shipping companies have re-ported shortage of merchant navy officers .

(b) The intake of cadets in T.S. Rajendra and Directorate of Marine Engineering Training, Calcutta has beep increased.

Tritium obtained by Pakistan for nuclear warheads

612. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AF FAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Pakistan is making efforts to obtain Tritium, an element used to increase the power of nuclear warheads, in order to develop thermonuclear weapons; and

(b) if so, What steps Government have taken to counter this threat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Gov-ernment are aware of such reports.

(b) Government maintain a constant vigil on all developments having a bearing on the country's security. Our apprehensions regarding the clandestine procurement by Pakistan of materials for its weapons-oriented nucelar programme have been conveyed to all concerned.